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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Miscellaneous Military Information, Razgrad and Silistra

1. In September 1952 an unidentified infantry regiment containing 500-600 troops occupied barracks in Razgrad formerly used by 19 Infantry Regiment. The barracks are old buildings and are located about 500 meters east of Razgrad at the intersection of the roads to Gara Samuil and Turgovishte. Details of armament, equipment, or personnel are unknown.
2. [redacted] a tank destroying unit was located 25X1 on the western edge of Razgrad on the south side of the intersection of the roads to Ruse and Popovo. The barracks were previously occupied by unidentified artillery and cavalry regiments.
3. During the latter part of 1950, [redacted] some 200 cavalry troops in Silistra and [redacted] a cavalry unit, possibly part of 8 Cavalry Regiment 25X1 may have been stationed there. There are no further details. 25X1

Military Convoy near Strashimir¹

4. In early August 1953 [redacted] near the village of Strashimir a convoy 25X1 of approximately 50 military trucks coming from Kurdzhali and going to Topolovgrad. The trucks had been painted light green recently and appeared new. They were identified as GAZ 63's and ZIS 150's. Each truck carried 20-30 soldiers wearing summer uniforms, who carried carbines and submachine guns of Soviet origin. Most of the trucks towed small artillery pieces mounted on pneumatic tires. The pieces were painted light green and covered with tarpaulins. 25X1
[redacted] they resemble the 76 mm. M1938 mountain artillery pieces as pictured in the book The Soviet Army. The truck convoy was closely followed by approximately 10 cars resembling the Soviet GAZ-67 which contained officers wearing pistols and green canvas field kits. 25X1
[redacted] at least three motorcycles [redacted] appeared to be new. They were painted green. The vehicles of the convoy moved slowly (20-30 kilometers per hour) and were approximately 50 meters apart.

Military District of Isperikh

5. The military district of Isperikh, responsible for Isperikh and Dulovo Okolias, occupied a building located near the center of town immediately west of the "Khristo Botev" amalgamated school. The building, a four room, 1-story structure, was at one time the private residence of Nikolay KIRYAKOV, who had been sentenced by the Isperikh People's Court. The district was established in the fall of 1950. Prior to that time, Isperikh fell under the Silistra Military district. The unit is composed of one Senior Lieutenant, three Junior Lieutenants, two civilian employees, and four to five soldiers. 25X1

a. Lieutenant Atanas (lmu)

b. Dragomir TYUTYUNDZHEV, a civilian employee from Isperikh

c. Ivan Boychev GEORGIEV, a civilian employee

d. Captain STOYANOV (fmu), former chief of the Isperikh Military District

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MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

The Strashimir Militia

6. Located at Strashimir in Madan Okoliya was a Militia Uchastuk (unit), No. 9 [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] responsible for the Strashimir area 25X1
(Kvartalno Otgovornichestvo v.Strashimir). Personnel included one junior lieutenant, who was in command of the unit, 3 militia junior lieutenants from the DS (Dŭrzhavna Sigurnost; State Security) and 9-10 militia men. [redacted] 25X1

- a. Junior Lieutenant KUVURDZHIKOV (fnu) [redacted]
[redacted]
b. Ivan MIKHAYLOV, a Militia Junior Lieutenant from the DS [redacted]
[redacted]
c. Militia Junior Lieutenant Drago (lnu), of the DS [redacted]
[redacted]
d. Militia Junior Lieutenant Gerasim (lnu), of the DS [redacted]
[redacted]

7. [redacted] Strashimir Militia [redacted] are as follows:

- a. Stanka KOCHMAROVA, a worker at the Strashimir recreation center [redacted] 25X1
[redacted]
b. Dimitŭr SAVOV, a bookkeeper at the supply section of the Fourth Construction Unit (Stroyrayon) of Sovbolstroy [redacted] 25X1
[redacted]
c. Rusi LESHTOV, a bookkeeper at the Fourth Construction Uchastuk (Stroy Uchastuk) in Strashimir [redacted]
[redacted] 25X1

The Ministry of Interior Directorate for Ispetikh Okoliya

8. Personnel of the Okoliya Directorate (Okoliya Upravlenie) of the Ministry of Interior at Ispetikh included a Militia Senior Lieutenant (Chief of the Directorate), two Militia Junior lieutenants, four DS agents, two criminal agents (Kriminalni agenti), and twenty militia men.

- a. Militia Senior Lieutenant Stoyan DYAKOV [redacted]
[redacted] 25X1

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b. DS Junior Lieutenant Todor KAMBUROV, in charge of the Okoliya Directorate for the villages of Kitanchevo, Todorovo, Sredoseltsi, Pechinitsa and others

25X1

c. Dimitŭr TSANEV, a DS Junior Lieutenant from Isperrkh

d. Militia Junior Lieutenant Vasil Stefanov VASILEV; responsible to the DS for several unknown villages in the area

25X1

e. Militia Junior Lieutenant Filip (or Trifon) TODOROV, DS agent in charge of several villages in the Okoliya Directorate at Isperrkh

25X1

f. Vasil BARASHKI, a criminal inspector

g. Militiaman Todor CHOLAKOV, from Isperrkh

h. Militiaman Georgi Vasilev YOTOV, from Isperrkh

10. [redacted] Interior Ministry Directorate at Isperrkh [redacted] as follows:

a. Vasil MARKOV, manager of the DZI (Dŭrzhaven Zastrakhovatelen Institut; State Insurance)

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b. Georgi BOYCHEV, manager (since 1947) of the Narkop warehouses (a cooperative store)

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c. Gavril YORDANOV, Secretary of the Okoliya Court

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d. Khriska Asenova KIRIAKOVA, aka Selva KHRISKA

e. Petia Nedelcheva TSONEVA, nee Dimitur YANKOV

f. Todoi IVANOV, a minor official since 1944 at the Isperikh City Hall

g. Ivan VASILEV,

h. Dimitur GRUNCHAROV

11. [redacted] from the village of Kitanchevo, Isperikh Okoliya were:

a. Minko Ivanov MINKOV, a member of the TKZS (Trudovo Kooperativno Zemedbelsko Stopanstvo; Cooperative Farm)

25X1

b. Vera Tsoneva TODOROVA, nee ANGELOVA

c. Mehmed Ahmedov KUSH, a minor employee at the village community group

d. Ivan Nikolov MINKOV, a barber, and assistant president (managert) of the farmer's cooperative at Kitanchevo

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e. Georgy BOSNAKOV,

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ECONOMIC

Construction in the Razgrad area.

12. [redacted] at the beginning of 1951 gasoline storage tanks were constructed above and beneath the ground at a point approximately 100 meters south of the Ispirikh railroad station in the direction of the Senkuvcha river. The tanks were to be ready for use in August 1953 and would supply the MTS in the Dobrudzha region with gasoline and petroleum. [redacted] 25X1
13. During the spring of 1951 a group of Bulgarian and Soviet specialists visited the Razgrad vicinity. It was rumored that a penicilin factory would be constructed near Razgrad at a place known as "Khisarluksa", where sufficient vegetation and water supplies were available. Construction began, however, at a point known as "Ezeroto" (the lake) about two and one half kilometers east of Razgrad just north of the road to Gara Samuil. [redacted] all privately owned land along the Sama river between "Khisarluksa" and "Ezeroto" would be expropriated by the Government. The State Construction Company was to carry out the construction plans. 25X1

The First Construction Administration, Kurdzhali.

14. Subordinant to the main Sovbolstroy (Soviet-Bulgarian Construction Company), Sofia, is the First Stroy Upravlenie (Construction Administration) at Kurdzhali which contains the following Stroy Uchastiks:
- The First - located at Kurdzhali
 - The Second - located at Rudozen
 - The Third - located at Madan
 - The Fourth - located at Strashimir
15. The First Construction Administration at Kurdzhali is responsible for all construction work in the Kurdzhali mining basin; its funds originate from investments of Gorubso (Gosudarstvennoe-Rudnoe Bulgaro-Sovetskoe Obshtestvo; Bulgarian Soviet Mining Company). The administrative section is located in the Sovbolstroy section of Kurdzhali, a short distance south of the town. Administrative and technical personnel of the company number approximately 100 (including five or six Soviets); the company itself is made up of the following branches:
- Production Branch, which executes all plans (the plans originate in the Soviet Union); its manager is an engineer, SHISHKOV (fnu), [redacted] 25X1
 - VIK Branch, (Water and Canalization), manager unknown; two Soviets in this branch.
 - Planning Branch, manager unknown, handles all financial problems and makes surveys on plan fulfillment.
 - Administration Branch, manager is a woman, name unknown; branch maintains office records for entire enterprise.
 - Kadri Section, manager unknown, conducts security checks of perspective personnel.
 - Supply Branch, manager unknown.
 - Judicial Branch, headed by one PUSTRAKOV (fnu), handles all legal problems for the enterprise. [redacted] 25X1
 - Bookkeeping Branch, composed of a Financial Section, a Materials Section, and a Bookkeeping Section, is headed by its chief bookkeeper, KUZMIN (fnu) [redacted] 25X1

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16. Personnel of the Construction Administration at Kürdzhalı follows:
- a. Sergei Sergeivich ZHENKOV, Chief of the Administration
 - b. Vladimir VERIKH, chief engineer
 - c. KARAMUCHEV (fnu), a Bulgarian in charge of security checks and living conditions of personnel
17. The administrative buildings of the First Construction Uchastuk, Kürdzhalı, are in the Sovbolstroy section of town; personnel connected with the enterprise number approximately 60. The organization of the Uchastuk is similar to that of the First Construction Administration. The enterprise is charged with the following projects in Kürdzhalı:
- a. Olovno Tsinkov Zavod (a lead-zinc plant)
 - b. A hotel-restaurant for Gorubso
 - c. A department store
 - d. Apartment dwellings for employees.
- It has been rumored that upon completion of the above projects the First Construction Uchastuk will be transferred to Velingrad-Ludzhene-Chepino in Pazardzhik Okoliya.
18. The Second Construction Uchastuk, Rudozem, is in charge of the construction of apartment houses, streets, and warehouses in Rudozem, as well as the construction of an ore refining factory and sections of a new cable line from Borieva to Rudozem. Upon completion of these projects, the Second Construction Uchastuk will be taken over by 'Gorubso'.
19. The Third Construction Uchastuk, located in Madan, is charged with the construction of the following:
- a. The new cable line from Borieva to Rudozem (its main project)
 - b. A number of small ore storage units known as "Khrostovhkranilishte"
 - c. Apartment houses in Madan, Sharenka and Konski dol.
 - d. A combination hotel, restaurant, and rest home in Madan.
- [redacted] the Third Construction Uchastuk employed approximately 2000 people; after completing the projects listed above, it is to be moved to Zlatograd.
20. The chief of the Third Construction Uchastuk, Madan, is a Pomak named KODZHAKHASANOV (fnu), a former teacher who was awarded a citation on 9 September 1953 for his part in the construction of the Borieva-Rudozem cable line. It was rumored that in the next 20 years, all huts and dwellings of miners in the Zlatograd vicinity will be vacated; the miners will be moved to Zlatograd, where paved streets will be constructed. The workers will at that time be transported to the mines in busses.

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21. The Fourth Construction Uchastuk, Strashimir, worked the following projects:
- An apartment building for 18 families - at Strashimir
 - A department store, public rest rooms, a maternity hospital, and streets in Fabrika.
 - Its main projects are the cable line between Laykov Chukar mining center (near Strashimir) and Borieva, and warehouses for the storage and classification of various ore grades for shipment to Kurdzhali, Rudozem or Madan.
 - Buildings where miners can bathe, change clothes, and store their tools.
 - Apartment houses in Borieva.
 - Buildings similar to those in section (d) above, but at the mining center of Petrovitsa.
22. The Fourth Construction Uchastuk employs about 600 workers; all of its projects are near completion. According to rumors, the Fourth Construction Uchastuk will be moved to Shabla in the Dobrudzha, where it will construct homes for the oil field workers. Officials and other employees
- The chief, Kiril Donev MARINOV
 - Chief Engineer and Assistant Chief of the Construction Uchastuk at Strashimir is Petur Ivanov PETROV
 - Assistant Chief Kosta Georgiev KURTEV
 - The Chief of the Production Branch, Engineer Vladimir Nikolov PALANKOV
 - Chief of the Supply Branch, Deyan Iliev BRADKOV
 - Chief of the Planning Branch, Tanyu MITEV
 - Chief Bookkeeper, Tsvetko BOYADZHIEV
 - Group Technical Foremen Kuzman KUZMANOV, Ivan Petrov SILOV, Todor TAKSIROV, KOSTOV (fnu), and Marin MARINOV.

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i. Chairman of the Worker's Trade Union, Nedyu Kolen VITANOV; [REDACTED]

j. Secretary of the Communist Party at the Construction Uchast'uk, Strashimir, is Hasan MISTANOV [REDACTED]

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k. Chief of the Kadri Unit (Otdel Kadri; Security Section) is one Vladimir KIREV [REDACTED]

l. Senior Bookkeeper in the Materials Branch is Vladimir STANKOVSKI [REDACTED]

m. Senior Bookkeeper of the Bookkeeping Branch, Dimit'ur TACHIKOV [REDACTED]

n. Technical Manager Tsvetko GEORGIEV, and Technical Manager Yordan NEDELKOV; both are Communist Party members.

Miscellaneous Information on the Rudozem Mining Basin

23. The construction of the Olovno Tsinkov Plant for lead and zinc, located about four to five kilometers from Kurdzhali, was interrupted in May 1953 after completion of the ground floor of the buildings. The reason for the stoppage is reportedly the lack of funds and the discovery of underground water deposits.
24. The towns of Rudozem and Borieva were reportedly to be given city status; however as of August 1953 this change had not taken place. It was proposed that Rudozem be given the name "Vulko CHERVENKOV"; however, this proposal was not accepted. Another rumor stated that the entire mining basin would be renamed the "Vulko CHERVENKOV" mining basin.
25. Work on the Borieva-Rudozem cable line began in 1952 and is scheduled to be completed by September 1953. Its purpose is twofold; to send crude ore from the central warehouse at Borieva to the new washing plant at Rudozem, and to return the ore concentrate from Rudozem to Borieva for further shipment to Kurdzhali. Towards the middle of June 1953, under the personal supervision of the Minister of Heavy Industry, Anton Yugov, construction of the cable line was stepped up. Some 2000 workers and technicians were engaged in the construction of foundations for the cable line. After separation of ore from rock at Borieva, the present procedure is to send the finest grade ore by truck to port through Zlatograd, and thence by ship to the Soviet Union. The remainder is currently being shipped by the cable line or by truck from Borieva to Kurdzhali.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Gara Samuil-Silistra Railroad line.

26. During 1946 construction began on a railroad to eventually connect Gara Samuil with Ispikh. It was connected at the Gara Samuil end of the line to the Kaspichan-Ruse line. From Gara Samuil the new road heads north, crosses the Senkuvitsa river, passes 500 meters east of Khursovo (N 43-34, E 26-46), in Ispikh Okoliya, and follows the highway from Khursovo to Bogdantsi (N 43-36, E 26-49). After passing through the center of Bogdantsi, the line continues in a northerly direction, passing east of Burdovka (N 43-38, E 26-46), thence in a northeastern direction to Ispikh. The line has been in use since September 1949. The section of the line between Ispikh and Silistra was constructed as far as Gara Todorovo, and bridges and buildings as far as that point, when, in 1950, the project was stopped, and the Zhelezoputnata Sektsiya (Railroad Construction Branch) was transferred to Staro Orehovo in Varna Okoliya. According to rumors, the line could be completed in two or three months. The population of the area

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was dissatisfied with this and sent delegations of protest to Sofia.

Grain Warehouses at Isperrikh

27. From 1948 to the beginning of 1953, grain storage buildings, four in number, were being constructed at Gara Isperrikh, west of the Railroad Station between the railroad tracks and the road to Isperrikh. All of the buildings were similar; their measurements were 100 x 50 meters, 10 meters in height. Their purpose is to store grain produced in Dulovo, Isperrikh, Novi Pazar, and Shumen Okoliyas pending further shipment to other parts of the country. The warehouses are guarded by members of the Militia Uchastuk located at Gara Isperrikh.

Construction of a Children's Village near Sofia

28. A project originally designed as a village for children, to be located near Pancharevo in Sofia Okoliya, was discontinued as such, and the buildings and grounds eventually were used by an unidentified military unit. The change in the plans was apparently due to bad climate and strong winds.

Uranium Mine near Narechen, Asenovgra. Okoliya

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29. During the course of a bus trip from Rudozem to Plovdiv on 25 August 1953, [] two young men mention a uranium mine. They pointed to a place about 500 meters north of the road; [] no details of a mine in the area, however [] the place was near the only bridge along the route. 25X1

Soviets in Bulgaria

30. At the beginning of August 1953 the Madan-Kurdzhali mining basin was inspected by a Russian, one KOZLOV (fnu). [] 25X1

[] KOZLOV had been at one time the director general of Sovbolstroy. He is presently a representative of the Soviet Government in all Satellite countries; he is in charge of all enterprises formerly owned by German citizens. KOZLOV holds the rank of Ambassador and does not reside permanently in Bulgaria. KOZLOV was accompanied by several well dressed individuals, all of whom spoke Russian; the duration of the party's tour was about four days.

31. The present director general of Sovbolstroy is one SHEVCHENKO (fnu), who resides in Sofia; no further details.

32. The Bristol hotel on Aleksandrovska Street in Ruse is presently occupied by Soviet technicians attached to the Ruse-Giurgiu bridge project. Others live outside of the town in villas and have their own private vehicles. [] 25X1
[] Russians, either in Ruse or in the Madan-Kurdzhali mining basin, [] moved about in groups, occasionally with an armed Militia man nearby.

Lack of Consumer goods

33. In Bulgaria at the present time there is no question of a shortage of consumer goods since commodities of almost every kind can be found, especially the necessities. However, the quality and variety of the goods is below normal. The habitual lack of quality goods has killed the people's taste for these products and they do not notice the poor quality of the products they use. [] the following 25X1
[] commodities [] were generally wanting or in short supply: all kinds of medicines, optical products, precision instruments, fountain pens, automatic pencils, and quality office equipment. Razor blades occasionally appeared on the market but often in insufficient quantities. In addition to the Russian "Kievka" blades and some from Leningrad [] there were only the 25X1
Czechoslovak "Abot" and the Israeli "Star" razor blades. There was also a lack of small metal equipment of every kind; however, the lack of construction material for new buildings or for the remodeling of old houses lessened the need for metal material. All types of foreign products and technical equipment was also lacking.

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The 1953 Harvest

34. [] the 1953 harvest was either good or very good. [] norms would be easily filled and that there would be extra food for the people. A particularly good crop was harvested in northern Bulgaria near Isperrikh and in the Dobrudzha. [] It was rumored that in Stara Zagora Okoliya the harvest was damaged because of the heavy spring rains and floods. Among the inhabitants of Kurdzhali Okoliya it was said that the tobacco harvest was damaged on a large scale because of drought, but that despite this fact the population was content. 25X1

Discontent among the People

35. [] most of the officials, and all those with any technical, scientific, or other qualifications (all of whom received their training abroad or who finished their education before 9 September 1944), are dissatisfied with the Communist Regime. This discontent arises chiefly from material want and from fear more than from a lack of freedom and possibilities for the future. The discontent in these groups manifested itself only in conversations in very small, tightly-knit circles of friends. [] students, most of whom were not communists, and who, having participated formerly in the social or political life of the country, were dissatisfied with the regime. Individuals who expressed their discontent [] had the mentality of petty officials, accustomed to an easy, and superfluous existence, and whose resistance to the regime consisted chiefly in listening to radio broadcasts from the free world, discussions in closed circles, and wishful thinking. There were very few of those who spoke against the regime who were willing to undertake even the smallest risk of acting against the government or to attempt to leave the country. [] imputes this attitude to a deep rooted fear. [] the regime was well aware of this attitude and did not put any trust in these people even though in certain cases it designated them to very responsible positions. [] the lack of action on the part of this group stemmed from their intelligence and from the fact that in listening to radio broadcasts from the free world and having the possibility of following developments of activities within the country, they had a basis to think that even without their aid sooner or later the Communists would be defeated. For this reason they felt that their personal sacrifices would be useless. 25X1
36. [] since the numerous purges of 1949 a large number of Bulgarian Communists are merely opportunists who are afraid to leave the Party, but who would do so if they had the opportunity. [] Party life was forcefully led and spurred by the paid functionaries of the Party (two or three in number), as all others showed a complete lack of interest, inertia, and a desire to avoid all party obligations. [] the weak character of many persons, their fear, and desire, of assuring the material comforts of their family, and especially the hope of being able to provide a good and easy life for their children and to educate them, drives people into the Communist Party or makes them sympathizers. [] even in a close circle of friends, Party members didn't want to talk about themselves, or to admit that they are members of the party. For this reason very few members wear the Party insignia. During a period of two years [] never once observed anyone wearing a Partisan insignia, and the number wearing insignias for World War II, for membership in Youth brigades, and wearing likenesses of Georgi Dimitrov, etc., has markedly diminished. It is rumored that the Party will urge everyone who has a right to wear medals to do so and also to wear the Party shirts. The most frequently observed medal was that the the DSNM which was worn chiefly by young men and women. 25X1

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37. Even before the death of Stalin there were strong rumors of an impending purge in the party. Recently, following the downfall of Beria, the rumors became even more insistent. [redacted]

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[redacted] persons in the Fourth Construction Uchastuk, who at a worker's meeting heard that there would be a purge of all undesirable elements who had worked their way into the party for personal advantage. There were no rumors as to the reason for the purge, or whether it would begin with high Party officials or with the masses.

[redacted] Party morale had suffered greatly in all classes of the Party after the uprising in Germany in June 1953. Perhaps this was partly engendered by rumors of the impending purge. 25X1

Reaction to Free World Broadcasts

38. [redacted] after listening to the first part of the Voice of America programs dealing with the news, people who listen to these programs turn off their sets or change stations either because of lack of interest in the second part or because of their fear of being caught listening to the radio. [redacted] it would be good for the Voice of America to present satirical proverbs and folk lore adapted to the present situation in Bulgaria. Such proverbs and tales that would be well known by the people are easily remembered and related, and given a double meaning, would have a great effect.³

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Comments

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1. The mining center of Strashimir is located about 200 meters east of Borievo (N 41-25, E 24-58) in Madan Okoliya.
2. An amalgamated school, as instituted by the Communists, brings together in one building and under one administration elementary, progymnasiya, and gymnasiya schools.
3. Tales which may be utilized for propaganda purposes may be found in the collection of National folk lore published by the Bulgarian Academy of Science.

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